



Fire Program Analysis – Preparedness Module Fireline Supervision White Paper

Date: April 3, 2004

Topic: Modeling Fireline Supervision

Issue: There have been questions and concerns about how the FPA-PM will account for fireline supervision.

Background: The investigation and review of recent wildland fire fatalities have concluded that well trained, qualified, and effective fireline leadership is essential to providing a safe working environment during suppression operations. The specific question is how will the strategic FPA-PM analyze and display the needed tactical fire suppression leadership to manage fire suppression operations. The most straightforward examples would be Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) and Type 3 (ICT3).

Discussion: The FPA-PM deploys fire resources to produce containment of modeled fire events; outputting an optimized solution for strategic planning and budgeting. Part of the optimized solution includes fire support and fire leadership sufficient to manage and support the production resources. Support and leadership will be determined through rules and thresholds. Rules and thresholds are “expert systems” similar to what was used in the legacy fire planning tools. When a threshold of x# of fire resources is reached the preparedness module adds a leadership position by rule.

It has been our assumption that these fire leadership positions (added by rule) would perform the tactical fireline leadership role.

The fire management program leadership position (example Assistant District Fire Management Officer) is funded from the preparedness activity. This position provides supervision and management of the subordinate fire production resources. Fireline supervision (ICT3) provides management and leadership during tactical fire operations with emergency suppression funding and with ICS position titles.

Recommendation: It is our contention and recommendation that fireline supervision does not need to be explicitly modeled within FPA-PM. The leadership and management function and associated organization and costs have been adequately captured through rules and thresholds.